

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 EB-08 TRSE-00 OES-07 DOE-15 SOE-02
IO-13 AGRE-00 /133 W
-----053712 030442Z /10

R 021403Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9865
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIAN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3778

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CB, RO
SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU VISIT TO CAMBODIA: FIRSTHAND REPORT
SECONDHAND

REF: BUCHAREST 3692

1. YUGOSLAV DCM POPOVIC BRIEFED DCM JUNE 2 ON COMMENTS
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CONCERNING CAMBODIAN VISIT SAME MORNING BY OUTGOING MFA
DIRECTOR (FOR SOCIALIST COUNTRIES) CIUBOTARU, WHO
SPENT TEN DAYS IN CAMBODIA NEGOTIATING VISIT DOCUMENTS
INCLUDING NEW FRIENDSHIP TREATY.

2. CIUBOTARU SAID DOCUMENTS WERE PREPARED BY ROMANIAN
SIDE AND ACCEPTED WITH VERY LITTLE NEGOTIATION BY

CAMBODIANS.

3. IN GENERAL, ROMANIANS HAD FOUND CAMBODIANS CONCENTRATED ON INTERNAL PROBLEMS AND CONFLICT WITH VIETNAM. THEY KNEW ALMOST NOTHING ABOUT FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND ONE OF MAIN PURPOSES OF VISIT FROM ROMANIAN POINT OF VIEW WAS TO ASSIST THEM IN LEARNING TO DEAL WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. TASK WAS A LONG-TERM ONE, HOWEVER.

4. RE CONFLICT WITH VIETNAM, CAMBODIANS WERE FIXATED BY IT, AND ALSO FOUND IT TREMENDOUS DRAIN ON SCARCE RESOURCES THEY BADLY WANTED TO USE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. CHINESE WERE PROVIDING ARMS, BUT DRAIN ON RESOURCES STILL CRIPPLING. ROMANIANS HAD PRESSED LINE THAT SOLUTIONS TO THIS AND OTHER PROBLEMS LIKE IT SHOULD BE WORKED OUT PEACEFULLY AND EXCLUSIVELY AMONG STATES INVOLVED, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT IS QUESTION OF "SOCIALIST" STATES. WHEN POPOVIC HAD ASKED ABOUT SINO-SOVIET RAMIFICATIONS, CIUBOTARU HAD DRAWN BACK, SAYING HE HOPED TO HAVE MORE TO SAY AT LATER DATE. (LOCAL SOVIETS PREDICT EARLY MEETING OF RCP POLITICAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO "ASSESS" VISIT OVERALL, AND POPOVIC SAID CEAUSESCU IS NOW SCHEDULED TO SPEAK TO 100,000 PEOPLE IN AUGUST 23 STADIUM AT BUCHAREST ON JUNE 4.)

5. RE INTERNAL SITUATION, CIUBOTARU TOLD POPOVIC CAMBODIANS ARE CONCENTRATING ON AGRICULTURE IN DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVE, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND IN MEANTIME PHNOM PENH IS PRACTICALLY EMPTY, WITH 30-30,000 INHABITANTS IN A CITY BUILT FOR A MILLION. THERE IS NO MONEY, I.E. ALL TRANSACTIONS ARE BARTER TRANSACTIONS, MAINLY FOOD REMUNERATION IN RETURN FOR WORK. DIPLOMATS HAVE TWO STORES, ONE FOR FOOD AND ONE FOR OTHER ARTICLES, FOR HAD CURRENCY ONLY. SITUATION IS GRIM.

6. ASKED ABOUT RESULTS, CIUBOTARU SAID AGREEMENTS SIGNED SHOULD OVER LONG TERM PROVIDE FRAMEWORK FOR ECONOMIC HELP AND COOPERATION, BUT IN SHORT TERM MAIN ROMANIAN PURPOSE WAS TO BRING CAMBODIANS INTO INTERNATIONAL LIFE ON BOTH STATE AND PARTY LEVELS A LITTLE MORE, AND HE THOUGHT THIS HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. AGGREY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUCHAR03778
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780232-0572
Format: TEL
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806104/aaaadliy.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1a6c147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BUCHAREST 3692
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2150561
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEAUSESCU VISIT TO CAMBODIA: FIRSTHAND REPORT SECONDHAND
TAGS: PGOV, CB, RO, (CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a6c147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014